



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

FOURTH GRADE TEACHER AT PINEWOOD ELEMENTARY AND LOCAL COMPUTER SALESMAN ARRESTED ON FEDERAL CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES

ICE agents and Beauregard Parish Sheriff's deputies find suspects at home

DERIDDER, La.-- Michael A. Holt, Special Agent-in-Charge, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in New Orleans and United States Attorney for the Western District of Louisiana Donald W. Washington, announced that Timothy A. "Tim" Brannon, 35, and Jeffery L. Johnson, 36, both of DeRidder, Louisiana have been arrested for federal child pornography violations. Their cases are unrelated and result from separate federal investigations.

Both men were remanded to the custody of the U.S. Marshall Service, Lake Charles, and both were charged with one count of possession of child pornography. After making initial appearances in federal court on Tuesday in Lake Charles, they were released on bond.

Brannon, a fourth grade teacher at Pinewood Elementary School in DeRidder and Johnson, a computer salesman, were indicted by a federal grand jury early this month in Lafayette. Brannon and his wife, Kimberly A. Brannon, 31, have each also been arrested on state charges, which include 102 counts of pornography involving juveniles. Both remain free on bond on the state charges and they are on administrative leave from their teaching jobs.

An examination of a computer seized at the Brannons' home revealed at least 102 images of what is believed to be pornography involving juveniles.

Johnson is also charged in state court with 28 counts of pornography involving juveniles.

U.S. Attorney Donald W. Washington said, "Child pornography represents one of the most heinous crimes in the federal system and will continue to be dealt with severely by this Office. The victims of these crimes are children who had to live through the horror of the production of pornographic images only to be victimized again by the publication, distribution, and viewing of those images."

“Sexual predators exploit children in the worst and most unspeakable ways, “ said Michael A. Holt, ICE Special Agent-in-Charge for New Orleans. “ICE will continue to work with U.S. Attorney’s, state and local police departments to hold those who prey on the most vulnerable in society accountable for their actions.”

Assistant United States Attorney Luke Walker will prosecute the case.

Members of the public are reminded that an indictment contains only charges. A defendant is presumed innocent of the charges and it will be the government's burden to prove a defendant guilty beyond a reasonable doubt at trial.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.

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